Coal shortage in Singareni Coal Mine

1391. DR. AKHILESH DAS : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that acting on a SOS from Singareni Colliery Management following the recent indefinite strike by coal miners, the Union Government constituted a Crisis Resolution Group; if so, the terms of the Group;

(b) the main demands of the workers and how the issues were resolved; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the coal shortage with the projects and the people fed by the colliery?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) During the recent strike in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), an inter-ministerial Crisis Resolution Group (CRG) consisting of representatives of the Ministries of Power, Railways, Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Coal India Limited (CIL) and SCCL, was meeting every week under the Chairmanship of the Special Secretary (Coal) to monitor the situation and ensure that there were no forced outages.

(b) The main demands of the workers are as under:-

(i) No privatisation and contractisation in SCCL.

(ii) Stop contractisation in Koyagudem Opencast Project and immediate withdrawal of Surface Miner.

(iii) Roll back of various privatization measures introduced in the past such as hiring of private ambulances, security services, private vehicle etc.

(iv) Revival of company's Voluntary Retirement Scheme for providing dependant employment (which is known as Hereditary Employment Scheme).

(v) Company power should be continued in all hutment areas.

The strike by SCCL employees was called off only after the intervention of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), New Delhi under whose supervision, a Memo of Settlement was signed between the Union and

the SCCL management and the collieries started functioning normally from the first shift of 8.2.2003.

(c) During the strike period following steps were taken by SCCL to run the mines effectively:—

(i) The cooperation of loyal workmen, all officers and police department were sought.
(ii) Coal Despatches were made at an average of 64,000 tonnes per day.
(iii) Sufficient coal supplies and stocks maintained for linked power houses.
(iv) Upon a request from SCCL management to Ministry of Coal, coal supplies from CIL were diverted to some of the power houses linked to SCCL.

Closure of loss making mines

1392. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering to closing down of some of the loss making mines in the country;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the exact causes of losses of such coal mines have been assessed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have taken any steps to revive such loss making coal mines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (f) Closing mining activities in coal mines and opening of new coal mines is an ongoing process. Depending on parameters like exhaustion of coal reserves, economic viability of the coal mines, safety consideration, technical feasibility, ability of the coal company to redeploy the working in a more viable mine etc., operational decisions are taken by the coal companies to close mining activities in some mines and also to open some new mines. 53 coal mines have been identified by the subsidiary coal